



# Site Lines

SUMMER 2017

SOUTH KINGSTOWN  
LAND TRUST

## OUR VOLUNTEERS ROCK, ROLL AND A WHOLE LOT MORE

Who is a South Kingstown Land Trust volunteer? A very special person who loves this community, its landscape and its history. SKLT currently stewards more than 2,700 acres of land, two historic properties, and our Barn with the equivalent of three full-time staff members. So, how do we do it? Thanks to YOU! Our fabulous members and volunteers move rocks, roll the millstone and a whole lot more.

Take the Grist Mill, for example. Diane and Bob Smith have organized a fleet of volunteers whose varied skills include planting, growing, harvesting, and drying the corn; building a new corn crib; building, planting and growing a “Three Sisters” exhibition garden; maintaining the sluice and mill; grinding and sifting the corn; packaging, marketing and distributing the meal; and last but not least preparing, cooking and serving the jonnycakes.

SKLT volunteers help in every way, from restoring the stone walls at Weeden Farm and stewarding the Sculpture Trail to monitoring our properties every year, and picking up trash along roads and trails to assisting in the office



Biscuit City Work Day. | Credit: Suzanne Enzer

with bulk mailings. This year, volunteers have cleaned out 16 years of grime in the Barn basement, counted birds in the field, assisted with pollinator study gardens, led hikes, and researched our properties. And that’s just to name a few.

If there is a property you love or a skill you’d like to share, please reach out. SKLT would love to have you as a part of the team. Contact: [julia.landstreet@sklt.org](mailto:julia.landstreet@sklt.org) or 401-789-0962.

## ACCREDITATION MATTERS!

Ten years of data prove that the 372 accredited land trusts like South Kingstown Land Trust save more land and are better prepared to protect it forever than land trusts that aren’t accredited. What does this mean to our community and our donors? Assurance that the land we protect today will always be there to provide food security, habitat, clean water and so much more.



## 2017 IS OUR YEAR OF STEWARDSHIP

2017 brings a serious focus on stewardship for the South Kingstown Land Trust. SKLT now stewards 1,563 acres in fee and 1,163 acres under easement. We anticipate closing on three more projects within the next few months for an additional 95 acres.

Just like our own yards, farms, forests, riparian frontage, houses and meadows, SKLT properties, which include over 12 miles of publicly-accessible trails through both woods and open meadows, require active care and stewardship. We're required to have a land management plan for all properties owned in fee and a forest management plan for our large forests. Open fields are maintained for habitat or leased for hay and other agricultural uses. If you have ever driven by Weeden Farm, you have seen and appreciated the wall restoration project.

In addition, SKLT has a number of research projects in the works on our properties, such as the American chestnut tree orchard, intentional pollinator habitat-



Weeden Farm in Bloom | Credit: Mo Howard

seeded versus seedlings, archaeology sites, flint corn from field to the table and endangered amphibian habitat. In all cases, land management is viewed through the lens of how to improve the ecological health of the soils and the land and the long-term viability of the parcel.

All of this work requires tools, equipment and materials. A pending goal for the organization is the construction of a Stewardship Annex to house all Land Management tools and machinery under the same roof, in a location that is user-friendly for staff, volunteers and perhaps long-term community partners.

Financial and volunteer support are always welcome for these vital functions. For more information contact, Clark Collins, Land Management Director, at [clark.collins@sklt.org](mailto:clark.collins@sklt.org).

*Open Space Makes All the Difference*



Credit: Ryan Furey

### GET TO KNOW Mo!

Monique (Mo) Howard joined SKLT as the Outreach Coordinator in April 2017. She is a recent graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a dual degree in Writing and Marine Affairs. During her undergraduate career, Mo was awarded an undergraduate research assistant position at URI's Agronomy Farm under URI's Coastal Fellowship. Prior to working with the Land Trust, she was the Science Communications Intern at Metcalf Institute. Mo hails from northern New Jersey where she fostered a passion for the outdoors and developed her extensive rowing, surfing, sailing, climbing and mountaineering experiences.

## UPDATE: SPADEFOOT TOAD HABITAT PROJECT

On an early, misty Saturday morning in mid-April, a crew of 10 hardy souls took the next steps in promoting a project to re-create breeding habitat for the state-endangered species of spadefoot toad on lands owned by the South Kingstown Land Trust. Drs. Nancy Karraker and Bill Buffum, of the University of Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources Science, and Tom Biebighauser, a wildlife biologist and nationally recognized expert in wetland restoration and construction, joined forces with seven enthusiastic members of Rhode Island's land trust community to learn the special characteristics of spadefoot toad breeding habitat and to seek out potential sites on SKLT's Bittersweet Farm in Tuckertown.

The criteria for the successful breeding of these rather handsome amphibians (no warts, 1"-3" size, and a specially evolved hind foot suitable for burrowing into fine and granular soils) includes:

- Protection from future development activities
- Sandy soils for burrowing



Spadefoot Toad | Credit: Carol Entin

- A level area for a shallow basin for pooling of water
- Sunlit location to allow for rapid growth of larvae
- Woodland surroundings for adult habitat
- Little erosion, flushing or sedimentation potential

With the use of GPS, a laser level, an auger and soil probes, and computerized mapping, Biebighauser produced a technical report that indicated a potential for creating up to six vernal breeding pools ranging

from 900 to 1,300 square feet in a total area of 26 acres. Presently, we would expect to be proposing only one site on the property.

At this early point, SKLT's next steps will be to look for potential funding sources, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other technical support from the University's College of Natural Resources Sciences. We will also be consulting with our neighboring land owners and the public about the project. We will keep you informed of new developments!

## FACTS ABOUT OUR NEW TRUSTEES!

**Joe Orlando** is an accountant specializing in business planning, acquisitions, financing and taxation. He has extensive Board experience and has made time to help us preserve and protect South Kingstown.

**Cindy Sabato APR** is director of communications for Save The Bay with expertise in public relations and marketing for education and non-profits. She also has a passion for dance, scuba diving and all things outside.

**Woody Small** retired from an extensive finance career and now shares his skills with numerous boards when he is not golfing, gardening or exploring South America with his camera.

**Caroline Wilkel, M.D.** stepped back from her dermatology practice to work with the pathology company she founded in 2011, New England Tissue. She finds time to surf, sail and enjoy South County.



## Save These Dates - SKLT Events

Saturdays, July 22 and 29	Summer Yoga, SKLT Barn, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 5	All Ages Rx Hike, Browning Woods Trail, 10 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 5	Summer Yoga, SKLT Barn, 9 a.m.
Sunday, Aug. 6	Great Outdoors Celebration, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 12	Summer Yoga, SKLT Barn, 9 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 16	Hot Dog Roast*, SKLT Barn, 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays, Aug. 19 and 23	Summer Yoga, SKLT Barn, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Aug. 26	The Greatest Wealth is Health*, SKLT Barn, 9 a.m. ( <i>info: sklt.org</i> )
Saturday, Sept. 2	All Ages Rx hike, Browning Woods Trail, 10 a.m.
Saturdays, Sept. 2, 9, and 16	Summer Yoga, SKLT Barn, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Sept. 16	Movie night & Pot luck*, Wall-E, 5 p.m.
Aug. 11–Oct. 1	RI Land Trust Days <a href="http://rilandtrusts.org/landtrustdays/">http://rilandtrusts.org/landtrustdays/</a>

For information on the English Country Dances held at the SKLT Barn, go to [kingstonenglishcountrydance.org/](http://kingstonenglishcountrydance.org/).

\*Please register at [info@sklt.org](mailto:info@sklt.org) or call 789-0962 ext 205



Engage with us:  
SouthKingstownLandTrust



## SUMMER YOGA AT THE BARN

SKLT has teamed up with MoonBear Yoga for a summer yoga benefit series. Noreen McGill, an SKLT member, registered yoga teacher, and MoonBear Yoga creator is hosting a series of yoga classes with all proceeds going to SKLT. McGill, who led similar yoga classes last year, said she enjoys “sharing her passion for nature and her dedication to the well-being of our community to support the SKLT mission to conserve and protect the natural resources and open spaces of our town for the enduring benefit of our community. The Barn provides the perfect setting for our practice. We can sense the love of the benefactor for the land and experience the natural beauty and serenity of the fields as we engage in our practice in this welcoming and expansive environment.” MoonBear Yoga raises funds to benefit non-profit organizations by sharing McGill’s practice of yoga. Join us - every Saturday, 9 a.m., now



Noreen McGill demonstrates Yoga at Barn | Credit: Noreen McGill

through September 23 - for yoga at the SKLT Barn, at 17 Matunuck Beach Rd. All ages and levels are welcome!

## FOCUS ON SKLT PROPERTY: HALE HOUSE

If we live, work or play in and around South Kingstown we cannot but notice the stone walls which are so abundant here. We all love them; but how much do we know about them? The walls are full of stories-some very old and told by peoples who inhabited these lands before the white settlers arrived. Some are more recent and explain who or what was kept either in or out by the walls themselves. In any event, they are part and parcel of life here on the Rhode Island Coast and many of the walls have fortunately been kept and preserved for generations.

This summer the Matunuck Preservation Society has dedicated programming at the Hale House to these walls and those stories. This year's exhibition features the stunning black and white photographs of Mathias Oppersdorff exploring the building of the walls. Photographed in 2000 they depict the walls and their builders. Our friend Marc Levitt worked with Oppersdorff creating interviews to accompany the photos. Together these are a treasure of South County and we are fortunate to have Marc agree to



Hale House | Credit: Deb Stallwood

partner with us this summer and help to tell the story.

You can find the entire program on our website at: [HaleHouser.org](http://HaleHouser.org).

## HALE HOUSE OPEN FOR THE SUMMER SEASON!

**Every Friday & Saturday, 1-4 p.m. through Sept. 2**

**All programs & exhibits hosted by Matunuck Preservation Society**

**All programs held at Hale House, except where noted**

*Stone Walls of South County* Exhibition

*Changes of the Land* Lecture

*Stories in Stone* Lecture

*Stone Wall Geology of Weeden Farm*

Croquet & Lemonade

Friday & Saturdays through September 2

Friday, July 21, 7 p.m. (Reservations Suggested)

Friday, August 18, 7 p.m., SKLT Barn

Friday August 25, 6 p.m., SKLT Barn

Fridays, 2pm (Weather permitting)



## MILESTONES

Summer, what a great time to enjoy South Kingstown Land Trust properties! A lot has been going on this spring as outlined in the various articles in SiteLines, from new trustees, to enhanced habitat, to hosting events for the Hale House this summer, and welcoming Mo Howard to assist with Outreach and Communications.

Other activities and events have included a terrific neighborhood meeting at Biscuit City. Historian and neighbor, Katherine Long presented on the history of the site and future plans to work with an archeologist to unearth a bit more of the past. Clarkson Collins shared SKLT's stewardship plans, goals and maintenance strategy for the property, and Board member and landscape professional, Ellen Grebstein, elaborated on the work being done to eradicate invasive exotics and to introduce native plants and woodland daffodils. After the presentations, everyone went to wander the trail and enjoy the spring flowers and budding trees.

Martha Day has been SKLT's representative brainstorming with fellow South County Land Trusts to identify opportunities to collaborate and spread the word addressing the importance of our shared mission. Along with a number of trustees, I attended the Rhode Island Historic Preservation conference addressing opportunities aligned with the SKLT cultural landscape properties.

There have been updates and enhancements to numerous management plans for agricultural, forested and open meadow properties designed to enhance the qualities the community sought to preserve. Additional properties have begun the lengthy process to protection, and owners of still other properties have reached out to SKLT to learn about SKLT what we do and how it is done. I hope to see you at the Great Outdoors Celebration - We have a lot to celebrate, and your support is vital!

Sincerely,

Julia Fry Landstreet, Executive Director



## SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST

*The mission of the South Kingstown Land Trust is to conserve and protect the natural resources and open spaces of our town for the enduring benefit of our community.*

### Officers

President: Martha Day  
Vice President: Susan S. Lovejoy  
Secretary: Linda Green  
Treasurer: James Farrell

### Trustees

Heather Mae Breau  
Edward Cimilluca  
Ellen Grebstein  
Kevin McDonough  
Joe Orlando  
Timothy Philbrick  
Carl Sawyer  
Cindy Sabato  
Michael Sherry  
Sherwood Small  
Caroline Wikel  
Richard Youngken  
Charles Lewis, Trustee Emeritus  
Sophie Page Lewis, Trustee Emerita

### Staff

Julia Fry Landstreet, Executive Director  
Joanne Riccitelli, Land Protection Director  
Clarkson Collins, Land Management Director  
Anne O'Neill, Development Director  
Michael Bontecou, Land Operations Coordinator  
Doug McGovern, Land Operations Coordinator  
Mo Howard, Outreach Coordinator

Main Office  
227 Robinson Street, Wakefield, RI 02879  
401-789-0962  
Field Office (SKLT Barn)  
17 Matunuck Beach Road  
401-783-4999

Site Lines Design: Cindy Sabato



## MEET OUR NEWEST EVERGREEN MEMBER, MARTHA DAY

Nature has always been a touchstone for me. Growing up in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts with four siblings, open space was much treasured; we spent summers in lakes, on farms and at nature preserves. That need for open space carried with me through college where I spent too much time hiking and skiing. Nevertheless, I graduated from UMass in Natural Resource Economics and eventually went on to law school before moving to Rhode Island with my husband.

Spending time surrounded by nature's bounty has always been essential to my well-being, no matter where I have lived. We have wonderful resources here, and I feel incredibly lucky to be living on the edge of our continent where we are surrounded by some magnificent land and beaches.

I didn't join the Land Trust intending to become an EverGreen member; however, the Land Trust's new

purchases and growth have made me more aware of the need for financial obligation. The more I learn, the more I understand that it will take money to continue our mission and to care for these lands in perpetuity. Forever is a long time. Our land trust has both a great responsibility to shepherd our lands carefully and great opportunity to use them wisely for us and future generations. I hope that many SKLT members, and anyone who appreciates what we have achieved, will join me in making a commitment to become an EverGreen member.

Martha Day, President

*Members of EverGreen provide the foundation for our long-term success. To discuss how your legacy can have an impact please contact Anne O'Neill, Development Director at 401-789-0962 or [anne.oneill@sklt.org](mailto:anne.oneill@sklt.org)*

## JOIN US IN PRESERVING OPEN SPACE IN SOUTH KINGSTOWN

Your support for open space preservation continues to strengthen our organization and invigorate our work. Join or renew your membership, make a general donation, or become an EverGreen member! SKLT is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization so your donation is tax-deductible. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### MEMBERSHIP:

I want to: ☐ Join ☐ Renew at the following level:

- |  |                 |                                      |      |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual .....      | \$30            | <input type="checkbox"/> Family..... | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward .....         | \$100-\$249     |                                      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian .....        | \$250-\$499     |                                      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist ..... | \$500-\$999     |                                      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor.....       | \$1000-\$2,499  |                                      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protector .....       | \$2,500-\$4,999 |                                      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist.....  | \$5,000-\$9,999 |                                      |      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Founders Club .....   | \$10,000+       |                                      |      |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL DONATION:

I'm already a member, but I would like to make an additional donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.



### EVERGREEN:

I have already planned a gift to SKLT and qualify to be an EverGreen member through:

- ☐ Estate Plans    ☐ Trust    ☐ Other
- ☐ I am a landowner interested in preserving my land.
- ☐ Please contact me about making a Legacy gift.
- ☐ My employer will match my gift. I've enclosed a matching gift form.

*Please make checks payable to:*

South Kingstown Land Trust

227 Robinson Street, Wakefield, RI 02879



SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST  
227 ROBINSON STREET  
WAKEFIELD, RI 02879

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## Site Lines



# GREAT OUTDOORS CELEBRATION & AUCTION AUGUST 6

*Join us for a lovely, fun-filled afternoon on Sunday, August 6, from 4-6:30 p.m. for our annual Great Outdoors Celebration and Auction at the SKLT Barn in Matunuck.*

Going once, going twice, sold to the highest bidder! Noted garden designer and horticulturist Louis Raymond of Renaissance Gardening will again be our fearless and humorous auctioneer. The auction will offer works by local artists, dining experiences and travel adventures. We will raise our glasses to celebrate saving over 2,700 acres of South Kingstown land and our paddles to bid and support our land preservation initiatives.

**Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.**

Bring a friend to enjoy a lovely afternoon and help protect open space.

### Great Outdoors Celebration Sponsors

*Pacesetter:* Karen Kames & Chris Gaffney; Dottie & Ken Woodcock

*Keystone:* Susan Seyfarth Lovejoy, Carolyn & David Moulthrop, Patagonia/ Denali, Clark Farms

*Gatekeeper:* Martha Day & CN Hetzner, Shoreline Properties, Sweenor Builders, Inc.

*Trail Blazer:* A Quick Tire, James V. Aukerman, Esq., Citizens Bank, Coastal Properties, Lila Delman Real Estate International, Carol & John Howland, Howard Johnson, Inc., Martone Service Company, Ocean Mist, People's Credit Union, Randall Realtors, Clifford M. Renshaw Architects, Rose & Kiernan, SmithCo Oil Service, Inc.

**OPEN SPACE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE**